

Photo by RWA Photo Contest Winner Richard Asarisi



This trail area along the Farm River is also a good place to look for ducks, herons, and painted turtles. The flat part of the Francis A. Merola Trail, which is over two miles long or enjoying the fall foliage. If you would like to add a challenge to your hike, you can make a loop by climbing either the Totoket Trail or the Vista Trail. These are steep, connecting paths up to the ridge. On the ridge, you will be rewarded with great views of the Farm River Valley. Watch for wild turkeys, which have successfully re-established themselves in the area.

A Regional Water Authority (RWA) Recreation Area – Big Gulph is the place for challenging hiking in untamed woodlands. Located in North Branford, Big Gulph features more than six miles of trails, ranging from flat to very steep with a variety of wildlife habitats, including streams, meadows and forests. Stream fishing is available in sections of the Farm River and the pond along the Farm River Trail. Please stay within the boundaries of the recreation area and do not enter restricted areas, as these are in sensitive watershed areas. The Big Gulph and Farm River Trails provide good access to the Farm River stream fishing area.

**South Central Connecticut  
Regional Water Authority  
Recreation Area -  
PERMIT REQUIRED**

**Directions and Parking:**

Big Gulph's gated entrance can be reached via Middletown Avenue (Route 17), where parking is available at the Northford Playground.

**Permitted Activities:**

This site is for passive use and hiking only. No mechanized vehicles are permitted. A State fishing license is required for fishing along the Farm River. Wading and swimming are prohibited. Dogs are not permitted.

*This project made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.*



*Mapping for this brochure has been produced by John Triana of the Regional Water Authority.*

**For more information about this location and to obtain a permit— contact:**

Regional Water Authority  
Recreation Department  
(203) 401-2654  
[www.rwater.com/recreation](http://www.rwater.com/recreation)

**South Central Regional Council of Governments**  
127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West  
North Haven, CT 06473

Phone: (203) 234-7555  
Fax: (203) 234-9850  
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**# 46 (RWA)**

**BIG  
GULPH**

**North Branford, CT**

# Big Gulph



Regional  
Water  
Authority  
Recreation

Flat jogging trail  
Stream fishing along Farm River

